

Message Text

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S E C R E T STATE 005351

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. ITALY: MORO WOOS SOCIALISTS

REPORTS FROM EMBASSY ROME INDICATE THAT PRESIDENT LEONE INTENDS TO ASK MORO TO TRY TO FORM A NEW GOVERNMENT.

EMBASSY COMMENT: EITHER THE SOCIALISTS WILL ACCEPT THE GREAT CONCESSIONS THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS ARE NOW REPORT-EDLY PREPARED TO MAKE IN EXCHANGE FOR ABANDONMENT OF SOCIALIST INSISTENCE ON OPEN PCI SUPPORT, OR EARLY ELEC-TIONS WILL BECOME INEVITABLE. (SECRET) ROME 254 AND (LIM-ITED OFFICIAL USE) ROME 268, 1/8.)

2. CONTINUED FIGHTING IN JAMAICA

IN THE LAST TWO DAYS POLITICAL VIOLENCE IN KINGSTON'S

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GHETTO HAS GONE UNCHECKED. THE RESULTS:

--THREE POLICEMEN AND AT LEAST TEN CIVILIANS HAVE BEEN KILLED. MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED CIVILIANS HAVE BEEN WOUNDED. (ONE POLICEMAN WAS WOUNDED AND ONE SHOT DEAD IN FRONT OF OUR CONSULATE.)

--PRIME MINISTER MANLEY HAS ELIMINATED THE EASILY HIT STATIC POLICE POSTS AND SWITCHED TO MOBILE PATROLS.

EMBASSY COMMENT: WE ARE BY NO MEANS SURE THAT THE SITUATION IS UNDER CONTROL OR THAT MOBILE PATROLS WILL BE ABLE TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE SECURITY. WHILE IT IS BUSINESS AS USUAL FOR THE MOMENT, WE ARE PREPARED TO CLOSE THE CONSULATE ON SHORT NOTICE IF NECESSARY. (CONFIDENTIAL) KINGSTON 110, 1/8.)

3. LEBANON: NO SETTLEMENT IN SIGHT

FIGHTING IN THE TEL ZAATAR REFUGEE CAMP CONTINUED UNABATED JANUARY 8, ACCORDING TO EMBASSY BEIRUT, AND HARDENING POSITIONS ON BOTH SIDES OFFER LITTLE HOPE FOR AN EARLY SETTLEMENT. THE EMBASSY ADDS THAT PALESTINIANS APPARENTLY WOULD LIKE TO PUT A DAMPER ON THE FIGHTING -- AT LEAST UNTIL AFTER THE UNSC DEBATE -- AND HAVE MADE LIFTING OF THE TEL ZAATAR SIEGE THEIR IMMEDIATE GOAL. (CONFIDENTIAL) BEIRUT 224, 1/8.)

4. PEKING SHOWS FEW SIGNS OF PUBLIC MOURNING

DESPITE FRONT-PAGE EULOGIES TO CHOU, LOWERING OF THE PRC FLAG TO HALF-MAST IS AS YET THE ONLY SIGN IN PEKING OF OFFICIAL MOURNING. OUR LIAISON OFFICE NOTES THAT GOVERNMENT OFFICES REMAIN OPEN AND RESIDENTS ARE GOING ABOUT THEIR DAILY ROUTINE. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) PEKING 47, 1/8.) KISSINGER

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